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'LUCK' IS HELD ONLY WAY TO DOWN A U-2

Designer Feels Plane Flies Too High To Be Hit

Exhibition Due

[Moscow Bureau of THE SUN]

Moscow, May 10—Soviet officials are preparing an exhibition of an American U-2 plane and materials taken from its pilot, Francis G. Powers.

It will be located in the Gorki Park of Rest and Culture, the main amusement park of Moscow, which covers several hundred acres along the Moscow River.

One wing of the Lockheed U-2 high altitude reconnaissance plane, most of its cockpit, and other pieces of wreckage, all in a dull grayish green paint, are being assembled in the chess club of the park.

Burbank, Cal., May 10 (AP)—The Lockheed U-2 spy plane flies too high to be knocked down by anything but a lucky shot with a missile, its designer said today.

C. L. Johnson, 60-year-old designer of the plane the Russians claim they shot down inside Soviet boundaries, told an interviewer:

"I'm not saying they don't have a U-2. From what they say I expect they have. But the wreckage shown in the photograph they released is not that of a U-2 but of a much heavier plane.

"That's the craziest 'wreckage' I ever saw, and I've investigated plane crashes over the past 20 years. This photograph looks like they had shoved the pieces around with a bulldozer.

Calls Photograph A Fake

"There is not a single identifiable piece of a U-2 in that photograph," he said.

Johnson jumped into the middle of an international name-calling dispute yesterday when he said the official Russian photograph was a fake.

"Not only is the picture a phony," he said today, but from what I know of the performance of the U-2 I doubt that it was shot down either by a missile or another plane.

"We know the plane flies at more than 55,000 feet—the Russians have said 60,000—and there are very few planes that can operate above 50,000 feet.

Might Be Lucky

"If a Russian plane managed to get directly beneath a U-2 and shot straight up with an air-to-air missile, it might be lucky enough to score a hit.

"Barring this remote possibility, if the Russians did hit a U-2 it was only because some malfunction caused it to descend below its normal cruising altitude—thus brining it within range of Russian planes.

"I don't believe Russia has anything that can maneuver as high as the U-2. If they did they would have knocked one down before."

Russia has fighters capable of soaring nearly 100,000 feet, but to attain such altitude they must go up like a rocket and fall back to lower altitudes like a rock. In the thin air at 60,000 feet most present-day planes would not be able to sustain even level flight.

(An article in Moscow's *Red Star* army newspaper today quoted the U-2 pilot, Francis G. Powers, as saying he believed an explosion in his jet engine—not a Russian missile—halted his May Day flight over Russia.)

Johnson said he could not disclose what kind of instruments the U-2 carries or their purpose, but added that if one was captured intact "this would give away a number of technical advances they do not have."

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